

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 IO-13 INR-10 SS-15 VO-05

CA-01 H-01 EUR-12 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4390

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1150

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, WZ, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES DETAINED IN SWAZILAND

REF: MBABANE 1085

1. I WAS CALLED TO OFFICE OF DPM ZONKE KHUMALO AFTERNOON APRIL 5 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF JAILED MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES AND RECEIVED SCORCHING TWENTY-MINUTE MONOLOGUE ON USG INTERFERENCE IN GOS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. DPM SAID GOS WOULD NOT COUNTENANCE THIS "POKING THE NOSE" INTO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS EITHER BY US OR BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. AS FOR LATTER, HE THREATENED TO HAVE UNHCR REP SABITI REPLACED FOR "WRITING A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS." DPM SAID WHOLE ISSUE WAS ONE OF NATIONAL SECURITY, "WHICH I, THE MINISTER, KNOW MUCH BETTER THAN ANY OUTSIDERS." THEREFORE, ALLOWING JAILED MOZAMBICANS THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO OTHER REFUGEES, MUCH LESS FREE RESETTLEMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. "WE ARE FRIENDS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND DON'T WANT REFUGEES FROM THERE CAUSING TROUBLE FOR MACHEL. WE ARE ALSO FRIENDS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY HOT-PURSUIT CASES FROM THAT COUNTRY. WE HAVE JAILED
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PEOPLE ON SECURITY GROUNDS BEFORE AND (LOOKING ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE) WE WILL JAIL SOME MORE. THAT'S THE ANSWER I HAVE FOR YOU." HE SAID, "SWAZILAND WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO GET RID OF THE JAILED REFUGEES, TONIGHT OR EVEN THIS AFTERNOON." HE ENDED MONOLOGUE BY REPEATING A STATEMENT HE HAD MADE AT OPENING, NAMELY, "IF BIG US DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO LITTLE SWAZILAND, THEN IT SHOULD SIMPLY SAY SO; BUT WE WILL NEVER

ACCEPT CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE (READ IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION)."

2. BURDEN OF MY RESPONSE WAS TO EXPLAIN HOW USG HAD LEARNED THAT MOZAMBICANS WERE IN JAIL AND WHAT ROLE SABITI HAD PLAYED. ON FIRST POINT, I SAID SABITI, AFTER DISCUSSING MATTER WITH DPM'S OFFICE, HAD APPROACHED AMEMBASSY CONCERNING USG'S INTEREST IN ADMITTING MOZAMBICANS. EMBASSY HAD ASKED WHERE MOZAMBICANS PRESENTLY WERE, AND SABITI HAD PROPERLY REPLIED THAT THEY WERE INCARCERATED IN SWAZILAND. ON SECOND POINT, I SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT NO ONE HAD EVEN HINTED THAT SABITI HAD CONTACTED US CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER. I TOLD DPM I WOULD BE REPORTING THIS DISCUSSION TO WASHINGTON.

3. DPM CONCLUDED THIS PORTION OF MEETING WITH A FORCED SMILE AND AN INVITATION FOR ME TO FEEL FREE TO COME TO HIM TO DISCUSS MATTERS LIKE THIS.

4. COMMENT: I BRIEFED SABITI IMMEDIATELY AFTER MY MEETING WITH DPM, ESPECIALLY SINCE DPM HAD ANGRILY SAID IN MEETING THAT HE WANTED TO SEE SABITI SOONEST. SABITI HAS BEEN CONVOKED FOR MEETING 0800 THURSDAY. EMBASSY'S ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS WILL FOLLOW AFTER SABITI REPORTS TO ME ON HIS MEETING WITH DPM.
WACHOB

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